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SUPERIOR IRON MAN®

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003

SUPERIOR IRON MAN

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003 | VARIANT EDITION

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DIRECT EDITION
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BE BEAUTIFUL • BE INTELLIGENT • BE HEALTHY • BE IMMORTAL

BE SUPERIOR

Tony Stark is a technological visionary...a famous, wealthy and unparalleled inventor. With the world's most advanced and powerful suit of armor, Tony has valiantly protected the innocent as the golden Avenger known as IRON MAN.

A recent battle with a mentally powered villain has altered Tony's mind. With a more arrogant and aggressive personality surfacing, Tony used San Francisco as a testing grounds for his newest invention...the Extremis 3.0 app. It can improve a person's life, making them more attractive, smarter and healthier...but it comes at a cost and not everyone can afford it. San Francisco's population is now divided into two groups—mere humans and those who are...superior.

Daredevil is one of many of Tony's allies that think he's acting out of character. He's tried confronting Tony about the harm Extremis 3.0 is having on the city, but it's resulted in the blind hero being cured by the app. With Matt Murdock able to see, will he accept Tony's vision for humanity?

CHAPTER 3: MAN OF VISION

Tom Taylor Writer
Yildiray Cinar Artist
Ruy Jose & Juan Velasco Ink Assists
Guru-eFX Colorist
VC's Clayton Cowles Letterer
Summer Lacy and Irene Lee Designers
Mike Choi Cover Artist
Yildiray Cinar & Jordan Boyd Variant Cover Artists
Jon Moisan Asst. Editor
Mark Paniccia Editor
Axel Alonso Editor In Chief
Joe Quesada Chief Creative Officer
Dan Buckley Publisher
Alan Fine Executive Producer
Iron Man created by Stan Lee, Don Heck, Larry Lieber and Jack Kirby

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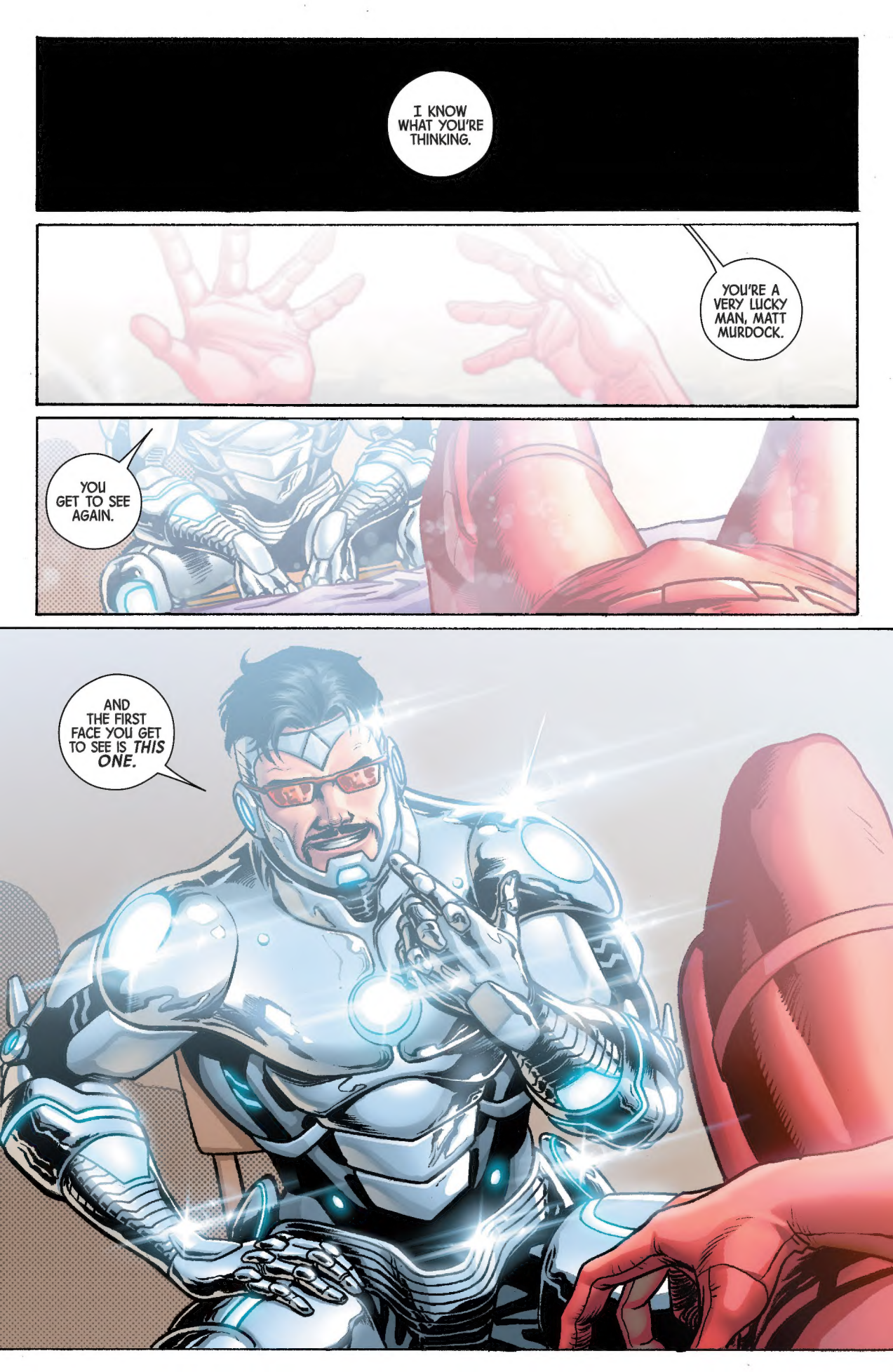
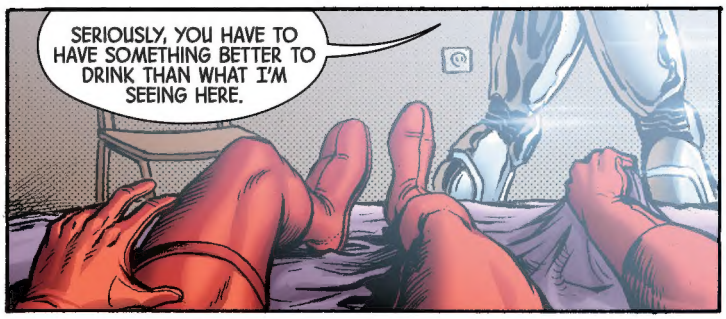
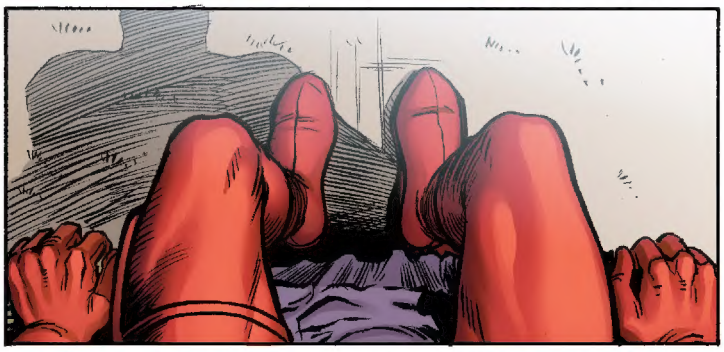
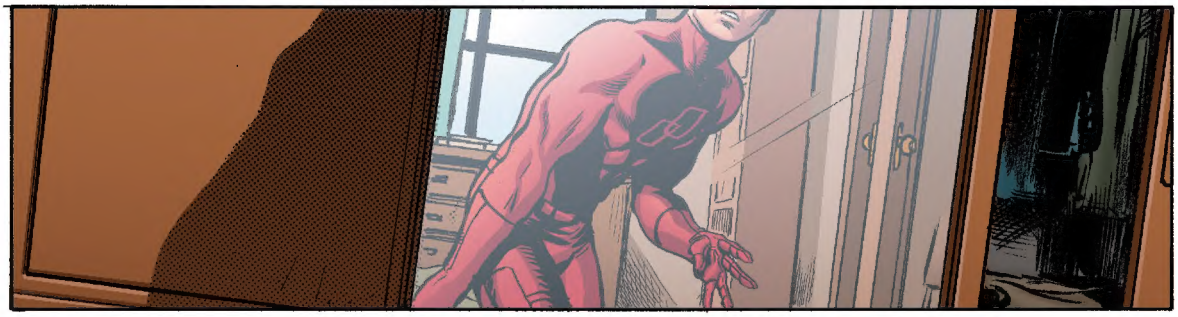
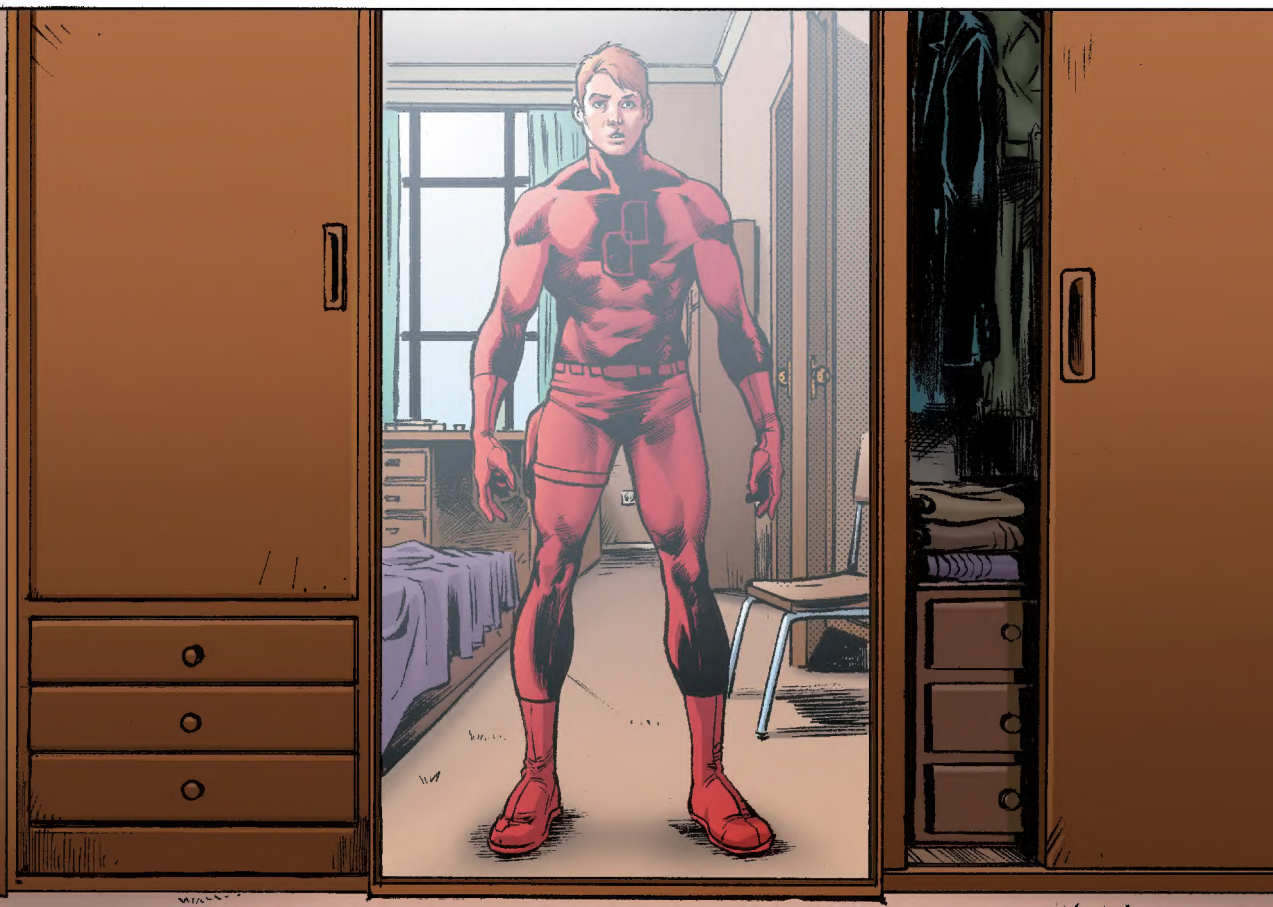

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
YOU'RE A VERY LUCKY MAN, MATT MURDOCK.
YOU GET TO SEE AGAIN.
AND THE FIRST FACE YOU GET TO SEE IS *THIS ONE.*

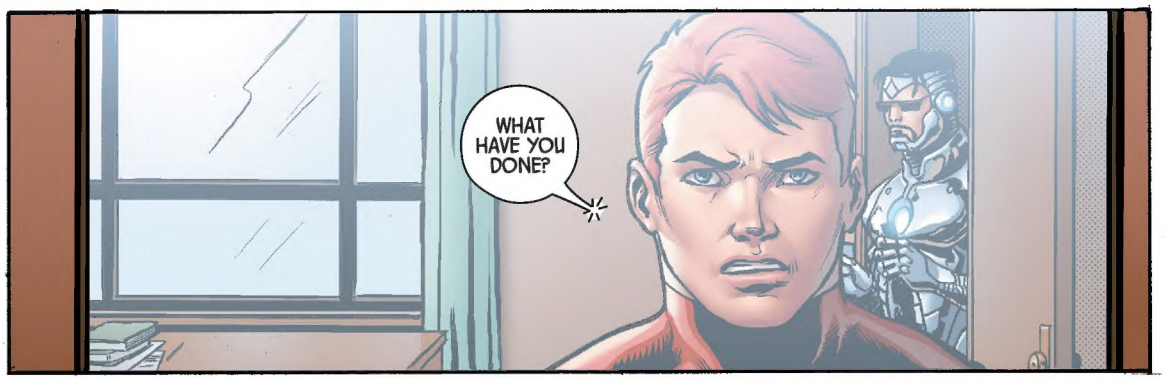
HEY, WHERE DO YOU HIDE YOUR GOOD LIQUOR?

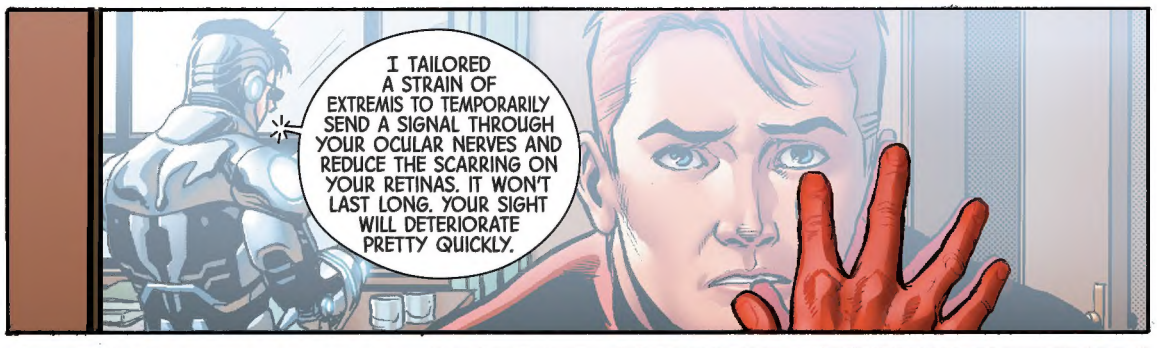

SERIOUSLY, YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING BETTER TO DRINK THAN WHAT I'M SEEING HERE.

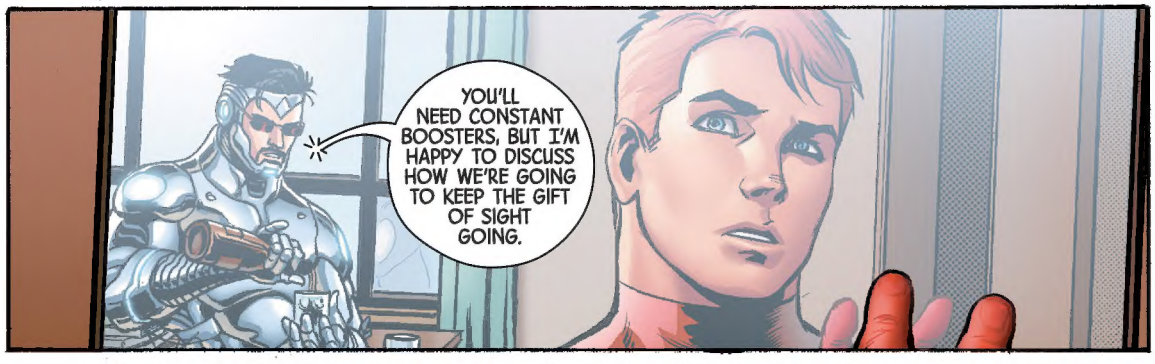


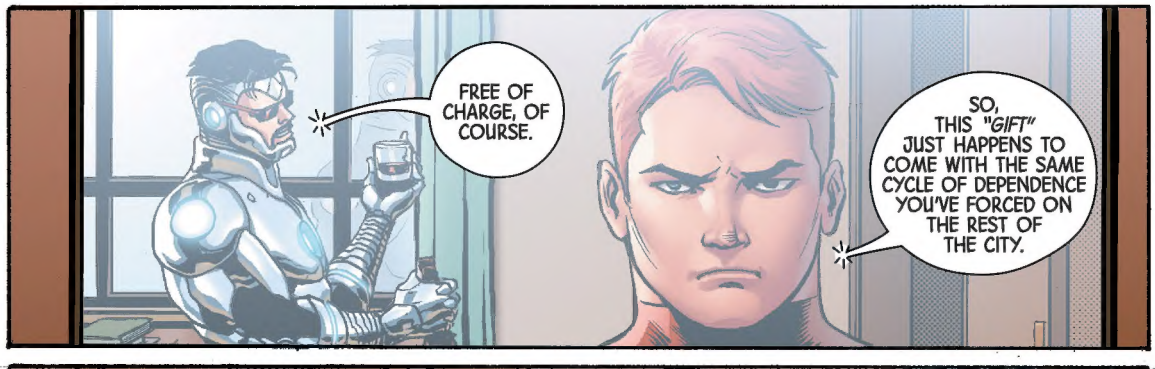


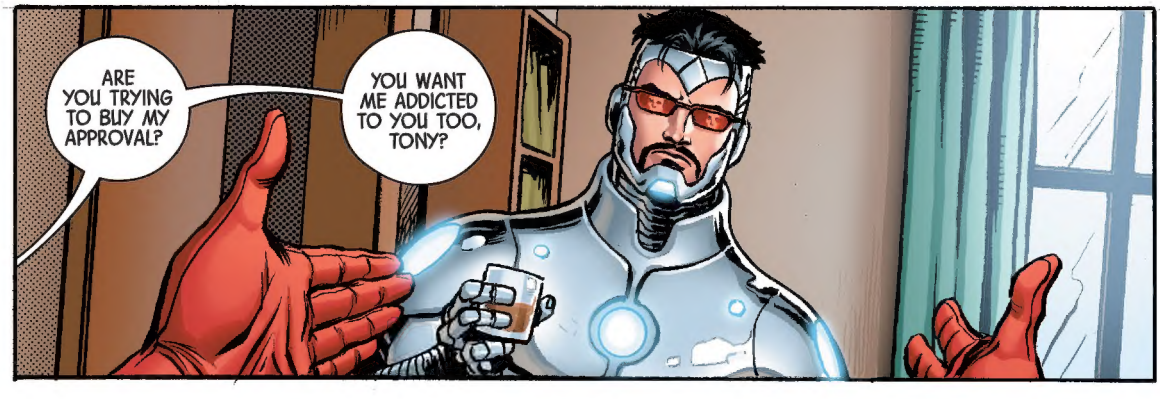



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

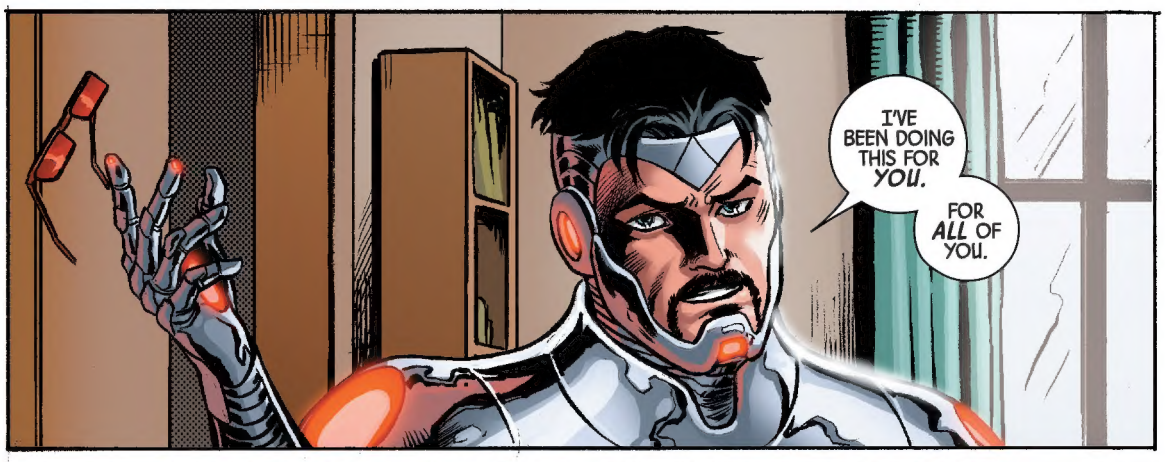

I TAILORED A STRAIN OF EXTREMIS TO TEMPORARILY SEND A SIGNAL THROUGH YOUR OCULAR NERVES AND REDUCE THE SCARRING ON YOUR RETINAS. IT WON'T LAST LONG. YOUR SIGHT WILL DETERIORATE PRETTY QUICKLY.


YOU'LL NEED CONSTANT BOOSTERS, BUT I'M HAPPY TO DISCUSS HOW WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THE GIFT OF SIGHT GOING.


FREE OF CHARGE, OF COURSE.
SO, THIS "GIFT" JUST HAPPENS TO COME WITH THE SAME CYCLE OF DEPENDENCE YOU'VE FORCED ON THE REST OF THE CITY.

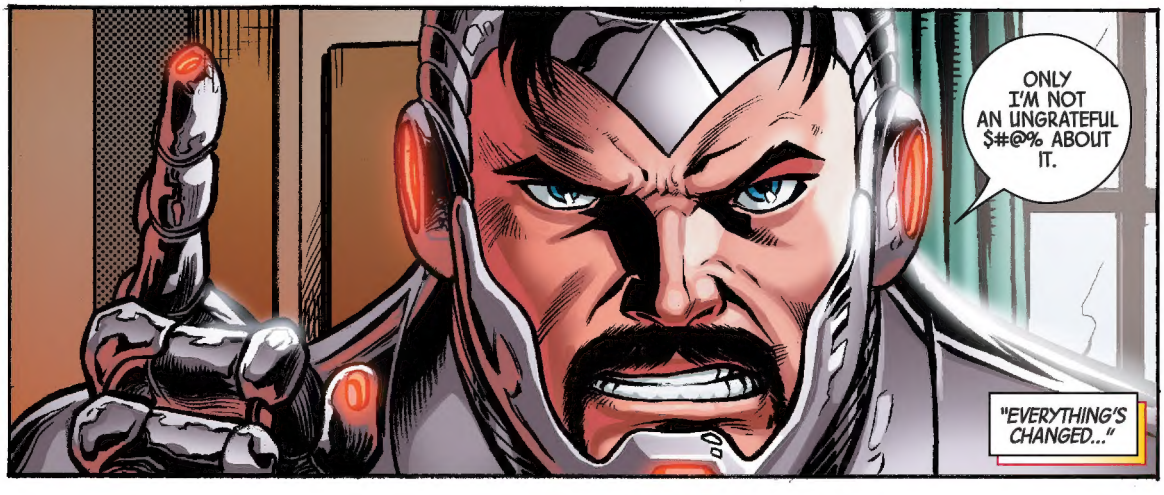

ARE YOU TRYING TO BUY MY APPROVAL?
YOU WANT ME ADDICTED TO YOU TOO, TONY?

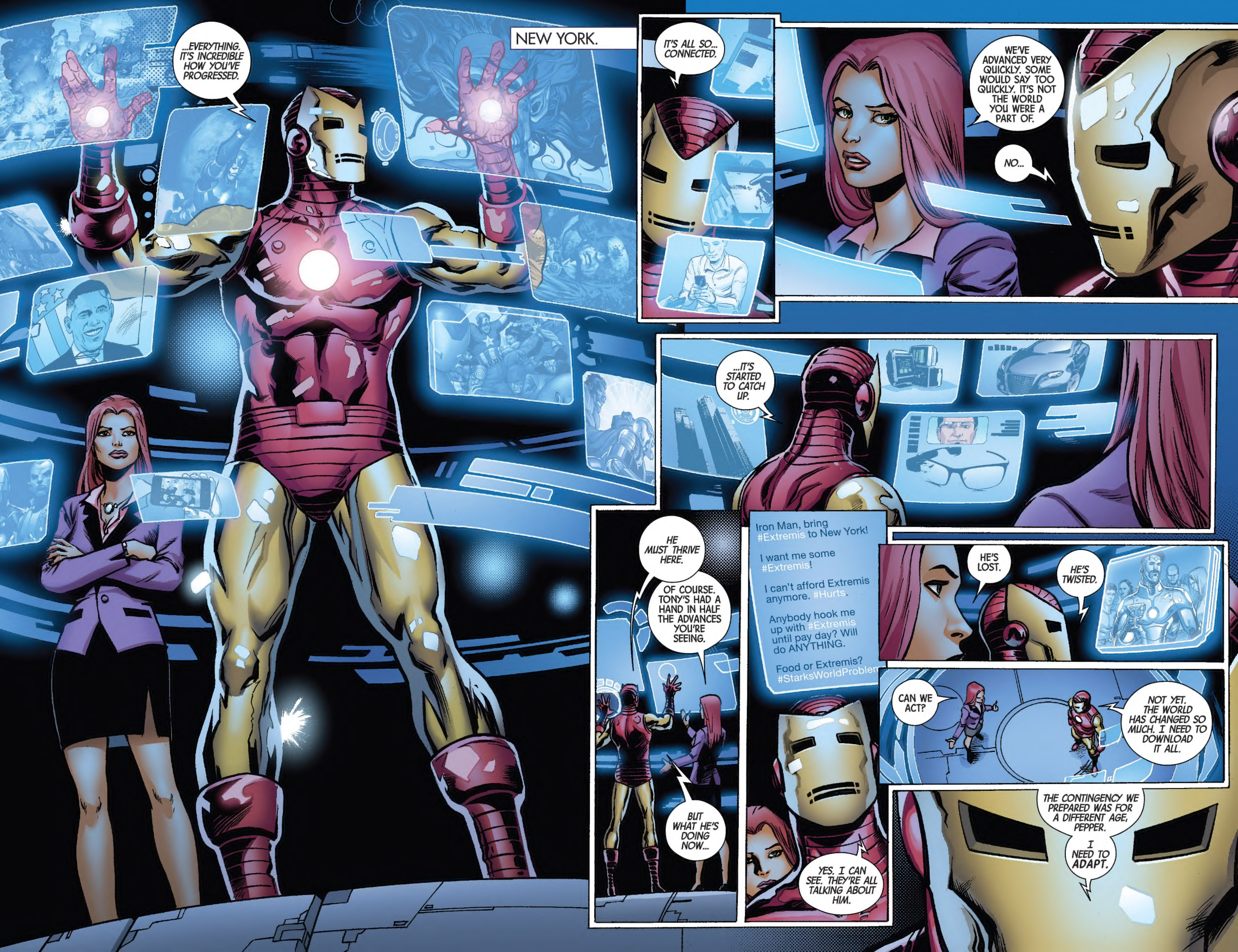
MATT. YOU'RE SEEING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A VERY LONG TIME. STOP OVERTHINKING THINGS AND TAKE A MOMENT TO ENJOY THIS.
HAVE A DRINK WITH ME.
CSHH
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? I GIVE YOU SIGHT AND YOU--
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO PLAY GOD?
PLEASE. BEING A GOD CAN'T BE TOO HARD. I MEAN, IF THOR CAN DO IT...
YOU THINK THIS IS A JOKE?
I'M THE MOST INTELLIGENT, CAPABLE PERSON ON THE PLANET.
I'M NOT *PLAYING* GOD.
ALL THIS TIME...
...I'VE BEEN PLAYING HUMAN.


I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR *YOU.*
FOR *ALL* OF YOU.

I HAVE WASTED SO MUCH TIME. SO MUCH ENERGY.
TO LOOK LIKE YOU--TO SOUND LIKE YOU--SO THAT YOU *SPECKS* FEEL COMFORTABLE AROUND ME.

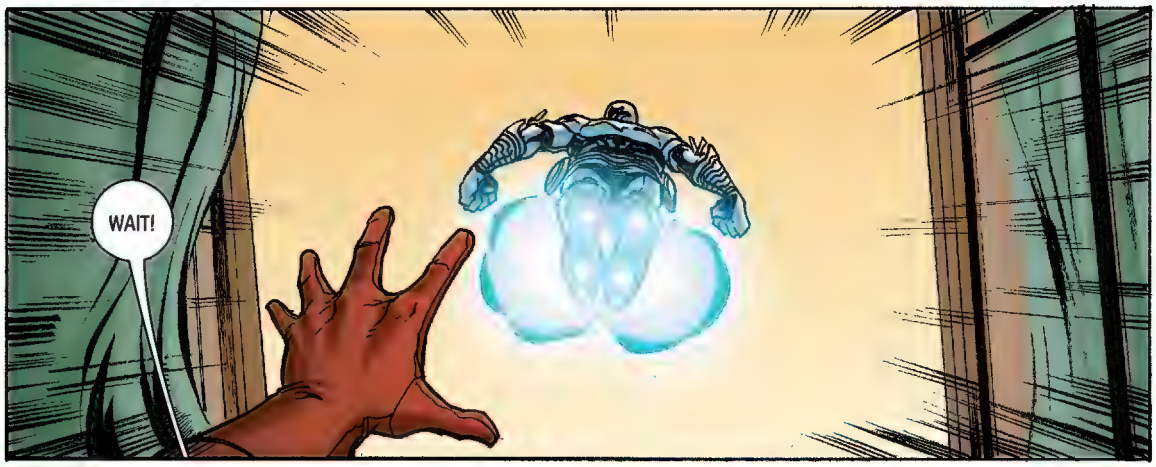
I'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK, BUT NOT ANY MORE. I'VE *CHANGED.*
IT'S LIKE *I* WAS BLIND AND NOW I CAN SEE.


ONLY I'M NOT AN UNGRATEFUL $#@% ABOUT IT.
"EVERYTHING'S CHANGED..."


NEW YORK.
...EVERYTHING. IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW YOU'VE PROGRESSED.
IT'S ALL SO... CONNECTED.
WE'VE ADVANCED VERY QUICKLY. SOME WOULD SAY TOO QUICKLY. IT'S NOT THE WORLD YOU WERE A PART OF.
NO...
...IT'S STARTED TO CATCH UP.
HE MUST THRIVE HERE.
OF COURSE. TONY'S HAD A HAND IN HALF THE ADVANCES YOU'RE SEEING.
BUT WHAT HE'S DOING NOW...
Iron Man, bring #Extremis to New York!
I want me some #Extremis!
I can't afford Extremis anymore. #Hurts.
Anybody hook me up with #Extremis until pay day? Will do ANYTHING.
Food or Extremis? #StarksWorldProblem
YES. I CAN SEE. THEY'RE ALL TALKING ABOUT HIM.
HE'S LOST.
HE'S TWISTED.
CAN WE ACT?
NOT YET. THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SO MUCH. I NEED TO DOWNLOAD IT ALL.
THE CONTINGENCY WE PREPARED WAS FOR A DIFFERENT AGE, PEPPER.
I NEED TO ADAPT.

DEET DEET
HANG ON. I HAVE A PHONE CALL.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
TONY!
JEN! I'M GLAD YOU CALLED. I NEED YOU TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO MATT MURDOCK. HE MIGHT UNDERSTAND BETTER IF YOU SPEAK IN YOUR SECRET LAWYER-LANGUAGE.
HE'S ACTING LIKE A MOROSE--
TONY. LISTEN.
HE'S FREE. THEY THINK HE'S HEADING FOR YOU!
WHO'S FREE?
TEEN ABOMINATION!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

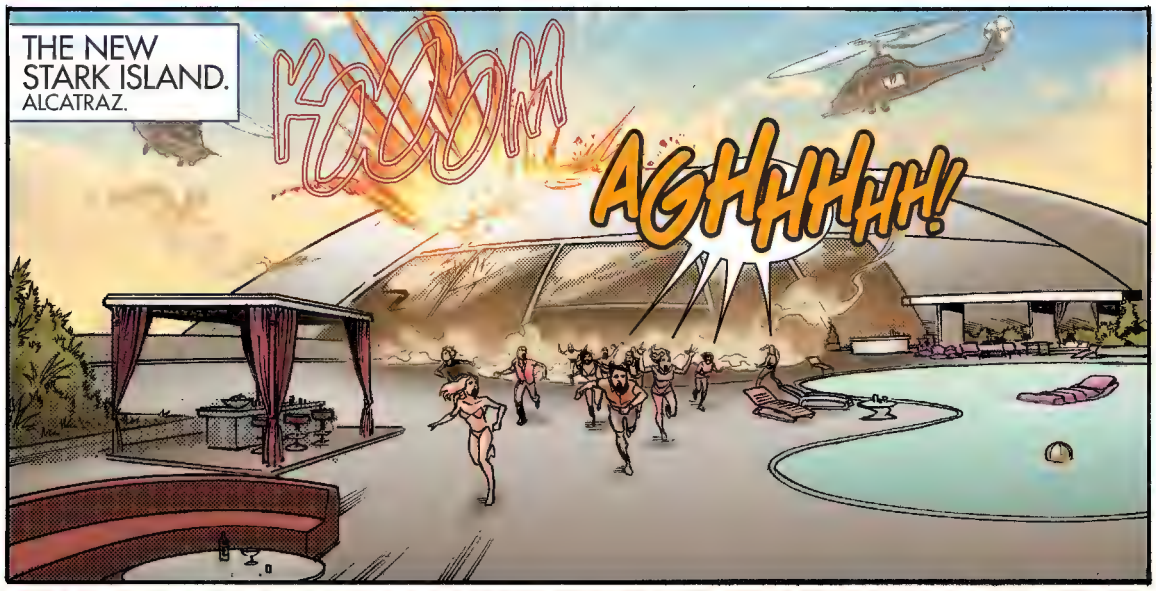
I HAVE TO GO.
WE'RE NOT DONE HERE, STARK!
CRCK
HNG!
YEAH...I'M DONE.
I DON'T HAVE TO JUSTIFY MYSELF TO YOU. YOU ARE SO FAR BENEATH ME.
IF YOU CHOOSE TO BE SENSIBLE--IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR SIGHT--YOU CALL ME, AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT HOW TO MAKE THIS A PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT.
IF YOU DON'T WANT WHAT I'M OFFERING, DON'T WORRY. IT WILL WEAR OFF SOON.
AND YOU CAN ENJOY RIDING YOUR HIGH HORSE THROUGH YOUR DARK, DARK WORLD.


WAIT!

MY GOD.

DEET

MATT?
HI.
CAN WE MEET?


THE NEW STARK ISLAND.
ALCATRAZ.
KOOM
AGHHHHH!

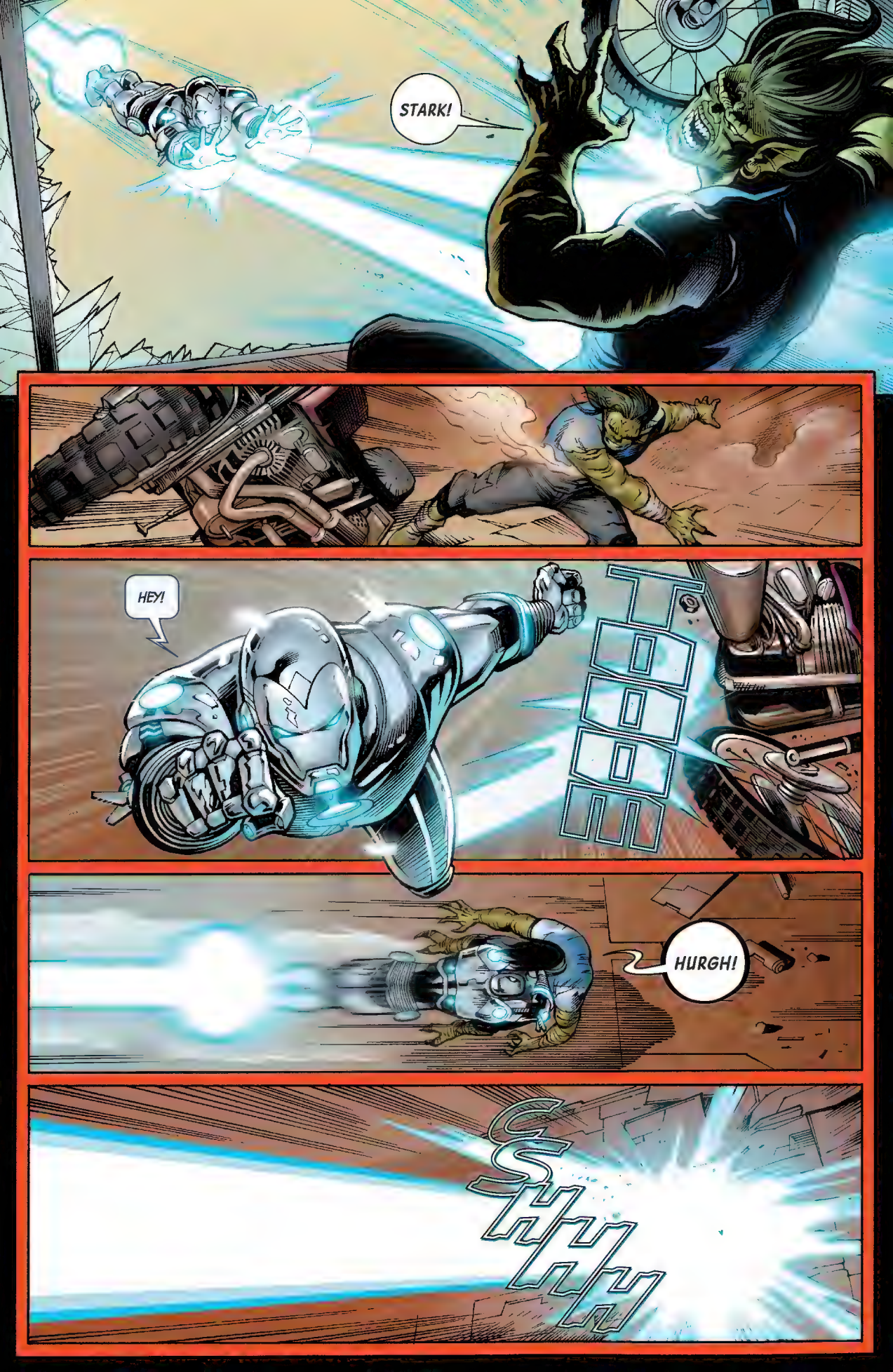
STARK!

WHERE ARE YOU?

NAARGH!
DAKKADAKKADAKKADAKKA
DAKKADAKKADAKKADAKKA
DAKKADAKKADAKKADAKKA
MOTORBIKE!
WHAT?

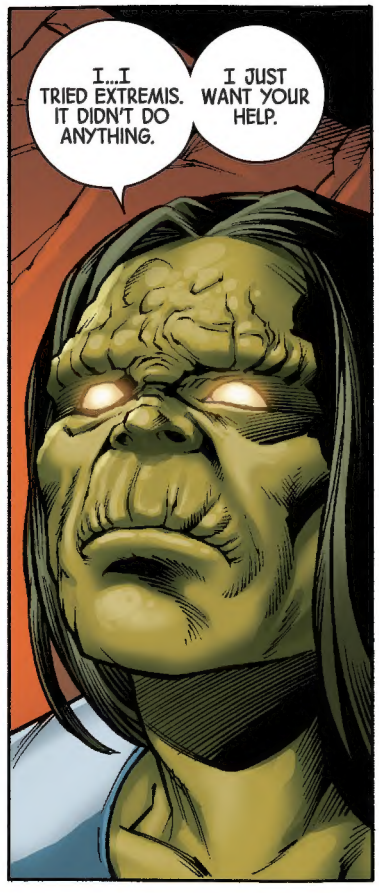
HRUUARGH!
PAKKADAKKADAKKA
MOTORBIKE!

OH, MAN! THAT WAS...
THANK YOU!
CAN YOU SWIM?
WHAT?
UM...YEAH? I CAN SWIM. BUT WHY--?
AAAAGHHH!
SPSSH!

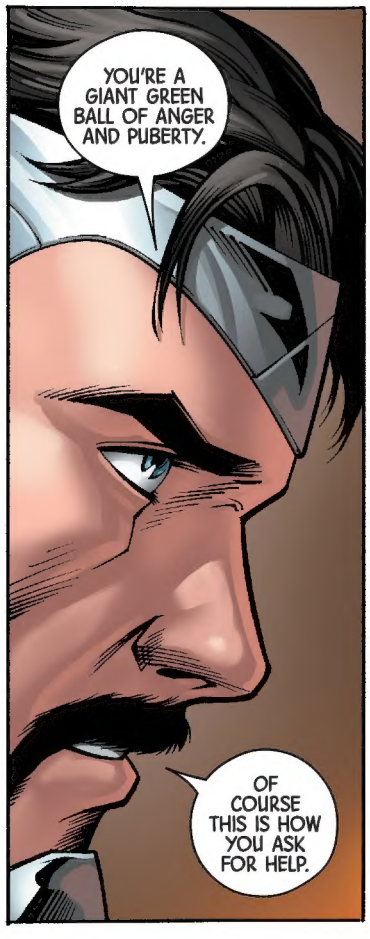

STARK!
HEY!
THUD
HURGH!
SHHH

STAY DOWN, KID. OR I WILL HURT YOU AGAIN.
NO. YOU WILL LISTEN. I AM TEEN ABOMINA--
NO. PLEASE DON'T SAY YOUR NAME OUT LOUD. THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND. IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR BOTH OF US.
YOU'RE MEAN!
WHAT?
YOU HEARD ME. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A SUPER HERO, BUT YOU'RE NOT! YOU'RE MEAN!
I'M...? HOW OLD ARE YOU?
OLD ENOUGH.
HOW OLD?
I'M THIRTEEN.

TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT.
WHAT I WANT?
YOU CAME HERE LOOKING FOR ME. YOU BROKE ALL MY STUFF. YOU USED MY MOTORBIKES AS PROJECTILE WEAPONS. YOU CLEARLY WANT SOMETHING.
WHAT IS IT?


I...I TRIED EXTREMIS. IT DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I JUST WANT YOUR HELP.

AND *THIS* IS HOW YOU ASK FOR HELP?


YOU'RE A GIANT GREEN BALL OF ANGER AND PUBERTY.
OF COURSE THIS IS HOW YOU ASK FOR HELP.

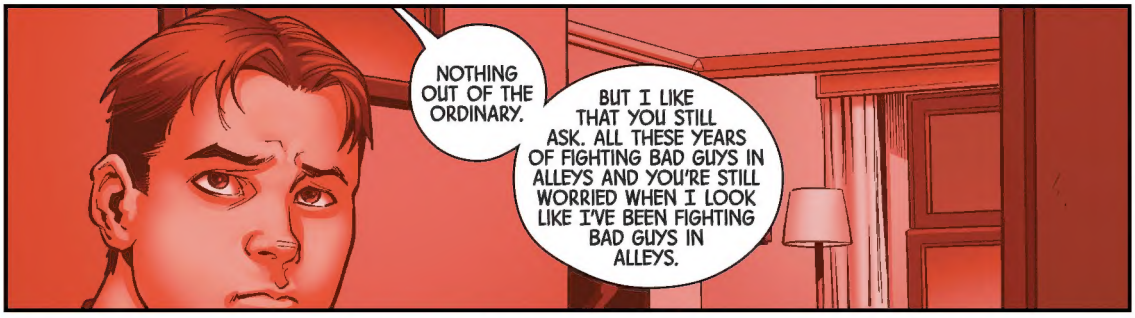
...YEAH.
YEAH, OKAY. I'LL TALK TO S.H.I.E.L.D.

GET UP AND START CLEANING UP YOUR MESS.
I CAN USE YOU.

KNOCK KNOCK

HI, FOGGY.

MATT?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?


NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
BUT I LIKE THAT YOU STILL ASK. ALL THESE YEARS OF FIGHTING BAD GUYS IN ALLEYS AND YOU'RE STILL WORRIED WHEN I LOOK LIKE I'VE BEEN FIGHTING BAD GUYS IN ALLEYS.

IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NO. I JUST...

...I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU.

HUH?
MATT? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
I...

DON'T WORRY.
IT'S NOTHING, FOGGY.

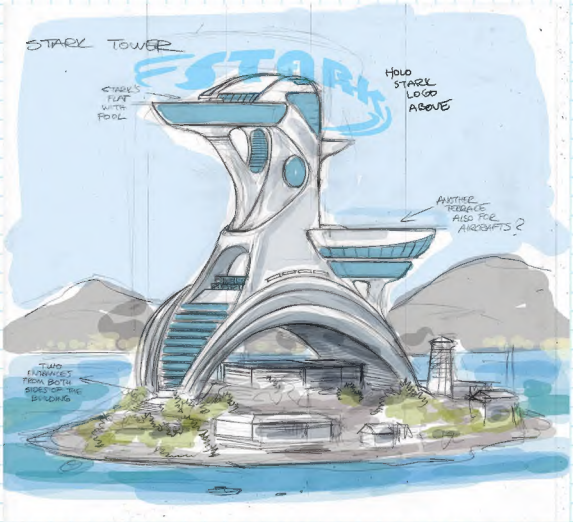
I'M FINE.
TO BE CONTINUED...

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN II

Welcome back to our peek behind the scenes of the most surprising Tony Stark you've seen in years.

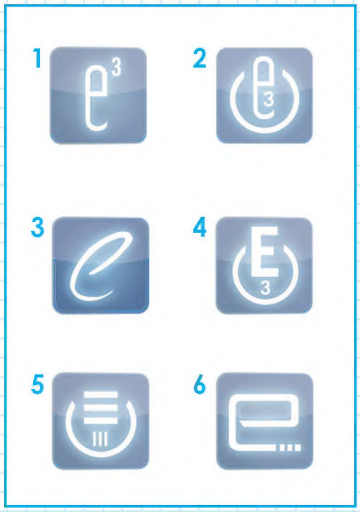
Last issue we talked about the SUPERIOR armor and how the mind-altered visionary's vanity and self-indulgence played an important role in its design. The next thing on the sketch list was the new Stark Tower. With Tony's unchecked ego at play, what could we do that would one-up what MARVEL's most successful and famous businessman has already done? Well, during early AXIS conversations between Rick Remender and Tom Taylor, the idea of Tony setting up shop on Alcatraz came up and dang was it a brilliant idea! Besides working on several levels, it allowed us to "upgrade" Stark Tower from the standard impressive skyscraper to a much more imposing piece of real estate. Thus what we now call STARK ISLAND was born!

We asked Yildiray to come up with something that would not only be an aesthetic extension of the armor (sleek and futuristic) but a design that exuded Tony's amped up lust for spectacle. This had to be the kind of place you'd see from a million miles away, looked beautiful and screamed good times! Personally I love it. If I could have blue LED everywhere in my house I would.



Yildiray's concept art for Stark Island, where all the cool Extremis-modified people hang.

Another important visual element was the app design for Extremis 3.0. In-house designer Summer Lacy provided us with six different options. And we loved 'em all. Tom was especially drawn to 5, commenting that it was "all kinds of genius." It was a hard decision but after going back and forth a few times we finally settled on 2, beautifully simple yet layered in meaning. Summer was good enough to design the recap page where the app icon is a key image really helping to give the book a unique vibe.

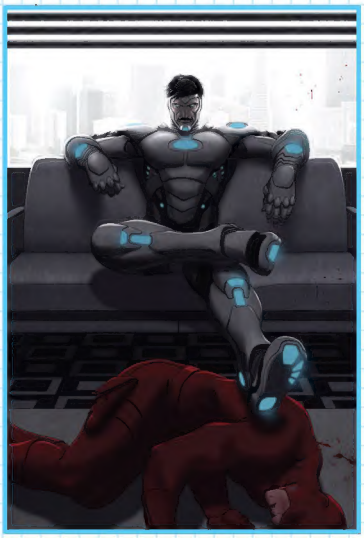


Extremis 3.0 app designs. All so good I wished there was an app to help us choose.

That's all the space we have for this issue. We'll be back next month ith the startling conclusion to SUPERIOR IRON MAN'S conflict with DAREDEVIL and a startling revelation about EXTREMIS 3.0!

Mark Paniccia
Senior Editor
MARVEL COMICS

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE



Love him? Hate him? Let us know what you think of SUPERIOR IRON MAN!
Write us at MONDOMARVEL@MARVEL.COM and be sure to mark OK FOR PRINT.